**2**8th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**6-17 November 2017, Geneva**

**Review of Czech Republic**

**6 November 2017**

Statement by:

Mr Jeffrey Salim Waheed,

Minister |Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from the Czech Republic to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation and take positive note of the national report.

The Maldives is encouraged by the positive steps taken by the Government to advance children’s rights, including through the ammended school act, which introduced new supportive measures for children with special needs, allowing them to stay in mainstream schools. We also take positive note of the introduction of the mandatory and free pre-school year for all children.

Further, the Maldives commends Government’s efforts to advance gender equality including the through the ‘Government’s Strategy for Equality between Women and Men [for the term] 2014-2020’ and the embodied action plans for balanced representation in decision-making positions and for the prevention of domestic and gender-motivated violence.

The Maldives recommends that the Government of the Czech Republic continue to effecitvely and fully implement the National Strategy to Protect Children’s Rights [for the term] 2012-2018.

Thank you, Mr. President